

PLANNING AND ACCOMPLISHMENT NARRATIVE

Fiscal Year 1973

United States Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge  
6975 Mower Road  
Saginaw, Michigan 48601

Permanent Personnel

Robert H. Timmerman.....	Refuge Manager
Gary A. Evans .....	Assistant Refuge Manager
Gaylord J. Bober .....	Assistant Refuge Manager
Janis A. Turner .....	Refuge Clerk
Lawrence J. Blazo .....	Engineering Equipment Operator
Kenneth H. Shelley .....	Engineering Equipment Operator

Approved, Regional Office

Submitted by:

_____	Signature
_____	Title
_____	Date

<u>Robert H. Timmerman</u>	Robert H. Timmerman
_____	Refuge Manager
_____	Title
_____	February 15, 1974
_____	Date

#### PART I. REFUGE HIGHLIGHTS

This will be remembered as a flood year at Shiawassee Refuge. On New Years' eve the Flint River levee broke in several places near the village of Fosters. The refuge headquarters area was flooded to within an inch of entering the goose check station. The south levee of the Trinklein Tract broke in two places on January 3rd covering this area with about four feet of water. Another major flood occurred when a reported twenty-one inches of snow fell on March 17 and 18. This snow alone would not have been so bad but high winds up to 50 miles per hour from the northeast pushed bay water up the Saginaw River and into the refuge area. Extensive damage to levees occurred at this time but no dikes were actually broken.

Emergency repairs were made on the Trinklein Tract levee as soon as water levels dropped enough to allow equipment on it. We drained as much water as we could out by gravity at which time the electric pumps were started. The east pump motor burned out on April 6, when one phase of the power went out. The power company refused to take the responsibility so we had to repair the motor. By running the pumps 24-hours a day, seven days a week, we were able to get the water out in time to farm the entire tract. Some other areas were not so fortunate as we were unable to farm the Hart, Almy or Fawcett Tracts. All other permittees were able to farm although some crops were planted quite late.

Due to the high water level in the Bay and the poor condition of the levee we were unable to keep the water off the Maurice Hart land adjacent to the refuge. We may be faced with a tort claim for not complying with the terms of the agreement spelled out in the purchase of Tract 146 from him.

Several changes were made in the refuge hunting program this year. The goose season was extended from October 1 through November 30, but we hunted only on odd numbered days. The low quality gun deer hunt was eliminated completely. The December archery deer hunt was held as usual.

Shiawassee was one of the seven refuges chosen to participate in the iron shot program. We furnished the shells free of charge and had 25 loaner guns provided by the arms manufacturers for those who could not or did not wish to use their own guns. No major problems were encountered and the iron shot was well accepted.

Secondary headquarters was broken into on May 6th and several items were stolen. The individual was apprehended by the sheriff's department and monetary restitution was made for the full value of all items taken.

About 100 buoys were put out to mark the areas closed to hunting at Lake St. Clair in September and were taken up again in November after the duck season closed. The buoys were not put out at the Wyandotte Refuge this year after discussion and agreement with the State Waterfowl Biologist and special agents.

Some work was accomplished on the proposed auto tour route but much remains to be done.

## PART II. REFUGE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Most of the deviations were a direct result of flooding and flood damage to facilities. The printout shows -100% deviation where nothing was planned and nothing accomplished. These have been eliminated from this report. The printout error under economic benefits was corrected.

<u>Output Code</u>	<u>Discussion</u>
6-10	<u>Trails:</u> The +999% deviation is a result of a change in reporting. All planned units were reported under wildlife observations.
6-11	<u>Tour Routes:</u> The +999% deviation is the result of not reporting any planned units because of the uncertainty that any could be provided because of flood conditions and damage.
6-21	<u>Environmental Education Teachers:</u> The +999% deviation is the result of no demand at planning time. When some demand developed we were able to satisfy it.
6-22	<u>Professional Services:</u> The -95% deviation resulted from a change in output definition and lack of personnel.
6-32	<u>Fishing:</u> The -86% deviation resulted to a great extent from lack of demand but probably to a lesser extent from inaccurate reporting.
6-34	<u>Wildlife Observations:</u> The -96% deviation was a direct result of the trail being washed out and closed during the period when heaviest use is normally recorded. A portion of this use was reported under trails.
6-35	<u>Wildlife Appreciation:</u> The +999% deviation was due to no use under this category due to adverse conditions.

- 6-36 Photography: The -68% deviation resulted from flooding and flood damage greatly cutting the demand.
- 6-38 Public Affairs: The -33% deviation resulted from a lower demand than anticipated
- 6-43 Boating: The +999% deviation resulted from our failure to report any planned use on the rivers where we have no control.
- 6-50 Studies and Publications: The +999% deviation resulted from a change in reporting. The two-year study was not completed during the year and should probably not have been reported.
- 6-55 Ecological Monitoring: The +999% deviation is a result of our not knowing at the time the work plan was submitted that we would be having a program.
- 6-56 Banding: The -50% deviation is the result of our being unable to band any swans and the cancellation of the in season Canada goose banding quota.
- 6-71 Special Recognition Species: The -58% deviation is probably the result of poor projection in the planning stage.
- 6-72 Wildlife Diversity: Although no deviation is shown in this category, it is in error. Only birds are included here. We have now expanded it to include all mammals.
- 6-73 Waterfowl Maintenance: The -43% deviation is the result of Canada geese failing to reach the peak population that we anticipated during the fall migration.
- 6-80 Waterfowl Production: The -31% deviation is the result of lower than anticipated duck and goose production, as the result of flooding and flood damage.
- 6-82 Species Donated: The -25% deviation is the result of fewer specimens being found in good enough condition to be used.
- 6-94 Furbearers: The decimal point was misplaced on the printout. The accomplished units should have been 2,736. This still is far above the planned units due to more animals being taken and higher fur prices.
- 6-97 Recreation User Fees: The planned units figure is in error and represents only about one-fourth of the amount that should have been anticipated. The accomplished units were 5,520 but were apparently not reported.
- 6-98 Other: The 50 units planned were actually accomplished but apparently not reported.